

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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SENT DEPARTMENT 4671, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 727, BONN 301, BERLIN 97, MOSCOW 196

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MOSCOW TELEGRAM-1774

AMBASSADOR THOMPSON IN HIS 1774 TO DEPT HAS DEVELOPED PERSUASIVE CASE FOR PROPOSING SUMMIT RATHER THAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING, ESPECIALLY ARGUMENT AGAINST PREMATURELY SHOWING OUR HAND AT FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. ONLY COMMENT WHICH OCCURS TO US IS THAT IF, AS WE IMAGINE, A SUMMIT MEETING WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR US IN JULY OR AUGUST AND IT IS THUS NECESSARY TO PLAY FOR TIME, ACCEPTANCE OF BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING AND SUMMIT MEETING AS BRITISH HAVE PROPOSED (EMBTET TO DEPT 4654) WOULD BEST ACCOMPLISH THIS PURPOSE. THIS WOULD ALSO PROVIDE SOLUTION FOR PROBLEM OF AGENDA. ACCEPTANCE OF SUMMIT MEETING AS WELL AS FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING COULD INCLUDE FORMULATION OF AGENDA ACCEPTABLE TO US THUS OBTAINING NECESSITY FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREEING ON AGENDA. I SHOULD THINK PRESSURE ON SOVIETS TO ACCEPT REASONABLE AGENDA WOULD BE GREATER IF EXERCISED IN CONJUNCTION WITH WESTERN PROPOSAL OF BOTH SUMMIT AND FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING RATHER THAN IF LEFT TO FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. THIS PRESUPPOSES WILLINGNESS ON PART OF WEST TO ACCEPT SUMMIT MEETING REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING PRODUCES RESULTS PROMISING SO FAR AS PROSPECTS SUMMIT CONFERENCE CONCERNED. IN MY OPINION, HOWEVER, BRITISH PUBLIC OPINION AND PROBABLY WESTERN OPINION IN GENERAL WOULD IN ANY CASE, AS AMBASSADOR THOMPSON SUGGESTS, DEMAND SUMMIT MEETING BEFORE FINAL SHOWDOWN ON BERLIN.

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